



THE FIRE MARSHAL Trumpet

A quarterly publication of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office

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NOTES FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL Jack Alexander

I just made the mistake of asking the editor of this newsletter when comments were needed and who had not contributed their thoughts. Needless to say, I was respectfully reminded who had not responded to the request for information. So here is a hurried note so that we can get the process back on track.

I have had a very interesting time since our last writing. I have had the privilege to visit a number of communities and participate in numerous events. Let me mention a couple that quickly come to mind. I was invited to be the guest speaker in Dodge City for the dedication ceremony for Fire Bell Memorial Park. Chief Dan Williamson, his department, and the city of Dodge are to be congratulated for a job well done. I was in Girard to visit with and to enjoy the firefighters that were biking across the country and to listen first hand at their personal testimony and view film of the activities of that dreadful day "September 11". We are all so fortunate to work in the same environment with such heroic people.

I trust that all had a great thanksgiving holiday, and as we now prepare for the up-coming Christmas season, we wish nothing but the best for you and yours. Continue to be safe and enjoy each day, and may God share his blessings with all.

The Fire Marshal Trumpet is designed, written, and edited by the employees and staff of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office in an effort to assist and inform the fire service and citizens of Kansas. Articles, ideas, and comments are welcome and may be submitted to:

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WHY LESS FIRE-PRONE CIGARETTES?

Historical aspects of tobacco use

When Columbus landed in the New World on October 11, 1492, he was offered dried tobacco leaves. Various names were given to the tobacco plant, one of the most popular being Nicotiana, after Jean Nicot, the French ambassador to Lisbon. Nicot was one of the first people to grow tobacco in Portugal and was largely responsible for introducing the plant to the royal court in Paris. In 1585 the Duc de Guise proposed that his name be used for the plant. However, the word “tobacco” had become established in North America and has outlasted all others in common usage. Early writers disagreed on the origin of this name. Originally it seems to have meant not tobacco itself, but a type of tube used by natives to inhale smoke from burning tobacco, or to a cylinder of tobacco leaf prepared for smoking. Nicotiana was retained as the generic name. The tobacco plant thus belongs to the genus Nicotiana, which is a member of the family Solanaceae. The tobacco first grown in France and Spain was Nicotiana tabacum, from seeds originating from Brazil and Mexico. The species first grown in Portugal and England was N. rustica, the seeds grown in Portugal came from Florida, those sown in England from Virginia.

Tobacco was originally smoked in pipes but cigarettes and cigars gradually became more popular. The early form of cigarettes consisted of tobacco stuffed into hollow reeds or cane tubes, or crushed tobacco leaves and shreds rolled in corn husks or other vegetable wrappers. During the eighteenth century cigarettes became more widely accepted, and the first cigarette-making factories were set up in Havana, Cuba, in 1853, in London in 1856, and in the American colonies in 1860.

Why do we need to reduce the fire risks from cigarettes?

Cigarette-initiated fires are still the largest single cause of fire deaths



- 31,200 fires
- 830 deaths
- 1770 reported injuries
- \$386 million in property loss
- \$4 billion total direct cost
- Today less fire-prone products are in the marketplace.

Smokers' materials are the leading cause of fire-related fatalities and loss in the U.S. each year. The victims of these fires are often among society's most vulnerable, such as children, the elderly and the poor. Self-extinguishing cigarettes protect against irresponsible behavior — falling asleep with a lit cigarette, discarding it carelessly or leaving it unattended.

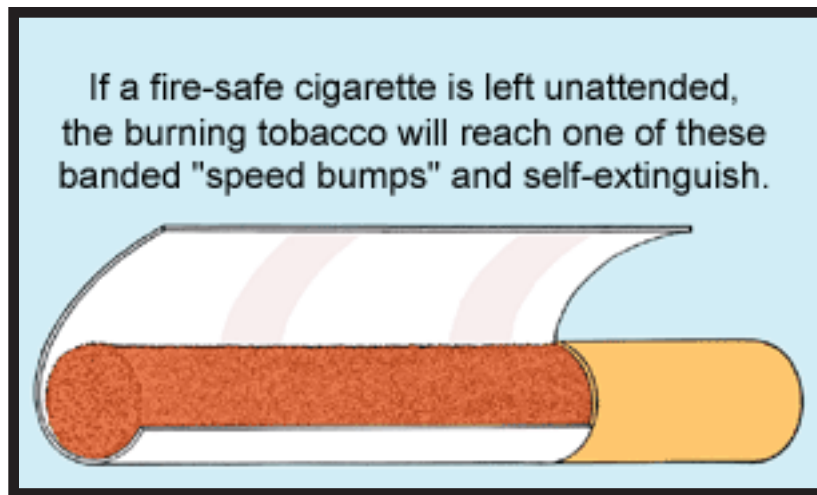


What are reduced ignition propensity cigarettes?

Ignition propensity is a measure of the ability of an ignition source, like a cigarette, to ignite an object, like a couch. Reduced ignition propensity cigarettes are designed to reduce the risk of fire. This does not mean they are “fire-safe,” as these cigarettes are still burning objects. However, reduced ignition propensity cigarettes are expected to reduce the number of fires started by cigarettes.

Do any jurisdictions have standards to reduce fire risks from cigarettes?

On December 31, 2003, the State of New York became the first jurisdiction in the world to adopt a standard to lower the ignition propensity of cigarettes. All cigarettes sold in the State of New York are now required to meet a standard of no more than 25 percent full length burns when tested on 10 layers of filter paper using ASTM method E2187-02b. The general conclusion is it is technically feasible and may be commercially feasible to develop cigarettes that will have a significantly reduced propensity to ignite upholstered furniture or mattresses. Furthermore, the overall impact on other aspects of the United States society and economy may be minimal. Thus it may be possible to solve the problem at costs that are less than the potential benefits, assuming the commercial feasibility of the modified cigarettes.



Kansas Building Fire Safety Handbook Revisions

The 3rd addition of the Kansas Buildings Fire Safety Handbook is scheduled to be available in January, 2007. The book has been under revision for over a year by several members of the prevention division. The new handbook and checklists are complete. The final version is typed, and the final proofing is underway. This handbook has more information which makes it more concise in each chapter.

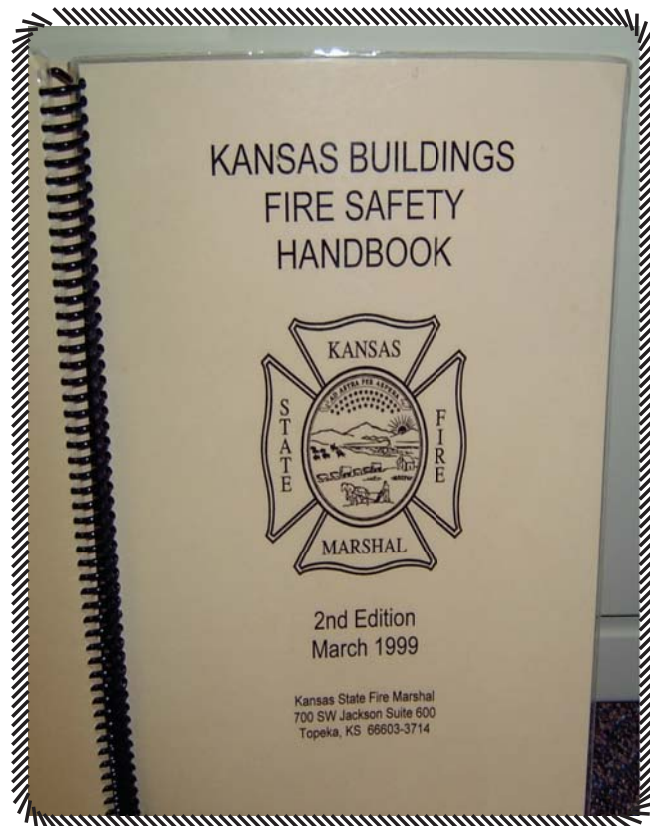
This is the second revised handbook done this year, with the LPG licensing becoming law and the code adoption changes. This handbook has been totally revised giving more information needed for the industry.

There are some new handbooks being developed to assist other business across the State of Kansas. One of the newest handbooks under development is for all types of childcare facilities. We are developing a handbook for licensing, and licensing amendments, breaking down each type of day-care, including preschools, head start programs, drop

in programs, before and after school programs, residential settings, centers, and the requirements for fire, and life safety in each type of facility.

When a code footprint and a scaled drawing are required the additional information needs to be shown on the prints submitted for review. Current review forms must accompany the prints being submitted.

Please look at these helpful links for more information on LPG. Our web site is <http://www.accesskansas.org/firemarshal> Check out the links on the web site for the Complete Application Packet, AST Regulations, and KSFM Flammable/Combustible Liquid Checklist 90-30, or email us at webmaster@ksfm.state.ks.us.



School Construction

Recently the Fire Marshal has received numerous complaints concerning blocked exits in schools due to construction. First and foremost we need to look out for the safety of the children regardless of what work is going on in and around their school. Exiting during construction is something that must be addressed well before any construction work begins. Architects will often address this, and most of the time the plans are designed correctly. The primary problem seems to be implementing this plan with the contractors and construction crews.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office requires that schools or school districts provide plans for their temporary exiting. These plans must be followed. When doing on site inspections, request a copy of the school's approval from the Kansas Department of Education or the temporary exiting approval from our office. They should be able to produce these documents. If they don't have the documentation or haven't sought approval for either the construction or the temporary exiting, construction work

may need to be suspended until all approvals are in place.



Sprinkler Systems

By Jack Chatmon

As of September 1, 2006, all new care facilities that will provide personal care services for adults, such as assisted living facilities, residential board and care homes, and home plus facilities, and will be licensed for four or more residents must contain an automatic fire sprinkler system that utilizes fast-response sprinkler heads. Previously, this office allowed new facilities licensed for 8 or less residents to be nonsprinklered as long as the facilities did not contain a single health care patient who was not capable of self-preservation.

Adult care homes licensed

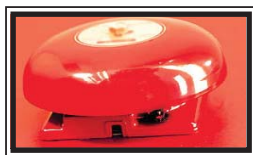
for 3 or less residents are no longer governed by the Office of the Kansas State Fire Marshal and will only need to meet the fire and life safety regulations required by the local authority having jurisdiction. However, these facilities should at least contain a smoke detection system throughout, emergency lighting, and resident room egress windows in order to provide a minimum level of life safety for the residents. As opposed to a NFPA 13 system that is found in most commercial buildings, a NFPA 13R Sprinkler System, residential dwellings up to and including 4 stories in height, or a NFPA 13D Sprinkler System, one and two family dwellings and Manufactured Homes, may be installed in adult care homes.

The basic difference between a NFPA 13R/13D system and a NFPA 13 system is that NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D sprinkler systems allow for such areas as canopies, bathrooms, and closets to be non sprinkled, which would reduce the overall cost to install such a system. The requirement for the automatic fire sprinkler system in adult care homes licensed for 4 or more residents can be found in the 1991 Life Safety Code, which is the



edition that is currently adopted for non-federally funded care facilities according to Section 22-1-2 of the Kansas Fire Prevention Code.

In addition, facilities choosing to install an interconnected smoke detection system throughout the building in lieu of a complete fire alarm system must now install a manual pull station on each floor level that is located in a constantly attended area and arranged to continuously sound the smoke alarms. Adult care facilities licensed for 17 or more residents must install a complete fire alarm system throughout the building. An interconnected smoke detection system is not an acceptable alternative. Also, for new facilities licensed for 17 or more residents an annunciator panel connected to the fire alarm system shall be provided. The location of the annunciator panel shall meet the requirements of the local authority having jurisdiction. A complete list of the fire and life safety requirements that adult care facilities governed by this office must meet can be found in Fire Fact 051 which is located on our web site or in the Kansas Buildings Fire Safety Handbook.



Alcohol Based Containers

By Stephen Fenske

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) has adopted part of the 2000 revised edition of the Life Safety Code to allow the placement of ABHR dispensers in the corridors. Chapters 18 and 19 of the Life Safety Code applies to long-term care facilities, religious non-medical health care institutions, hospices, programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly, hospitals, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, and critical access hospitals.

Ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) are not covered under chapters 18 or 19 of the LSC; but are rather covered under chapters 20 and 21 of the LSC. However ASCs are being allowed to install ABHR dispensers in egress corridors according to the same conditions identified for other health care facilities. Health care facilities will need to meet the following requirements

to ensure compliance with the placement of the ABHR dispensers:

- Where dispensers are installed in a corridor, the corridor shall have a minimum width of 6 ft. (1.8 m).
- The maximum individual dispenser fluid capacity shall be:—0.3 gallons (1.2 liters) for dispensers in rooms, corridors, and areas open to corridors. —0.5 gallons (2.0 liters) for dispensers in suites of rooms.
- The dispensers shall have a minimum horizontal spacing of 4 ft. (1.2m) from each other.
- Not more than an aggregate 10 gallons (37.8 liters) of ABHR solution shall be in use in a single smoke compartment outside of a storage cabinet.
- Storage of quantities greater than 5 gallons (18.9 liters) in a single smoke compartment shall meet the requirements of NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code.
- The dispensers shall not be installed over or directly adjacent to an ignition source.
- In locations with carpeted floor coverings, dispensers installed directly over carpeted surfaces shall be permitted only in sprinkled smoke compartments.



School Shootings and Fire Safety

By Kenya Patzer

Recent Columbine-style attacks in schools across the nation have thrust school safety into the spotlight yet again. Attacks on students and administrators in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, and the averted attempt in Missouri have forced school officials and law enforcement agencies to review their own plans and security procedures in the event of an attack. These security procedures often involve securing rooms or building portions against intruder access.

We've already received a number of questions from school administrators or law enforcement officials engaged in discussions to tighten school securities. The questions usually concern doors, panic hardware, and deadbolt locks. Can deadbolts be used to secure doors and exits? In almost all cases, they can not. Can doors and exits be removed to provide less access to an area? Again, usually not. Even though school security is a major concern in our society today, building occupants must still have adequate exiting and that exiting must be preserved.

As a member of the fire service, what is your role in school safety? It will differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. However, we encourage you to be proactive rather than reactive. Ask to meet with school and law enforcement officials when they discuss safety. Don't wait for them to

approach you. When you are inside school buildings, whether as part of a company inspection or annual inspection, keep an eye out for exits that may have been blocked or locked for safety and security reasons. Security and fire safety must co-exist, especially in our schools.



Kirk Kress

Kirk Kress is our new Health Care Inspector. He lives in Iola now with his wife and son.

He worked at the Iola Fire Department for over 21 years. He worked his way up and retired as a Department Chief. He will be working in the southeastern part of the state.



Heather Dunlap

Heather is our new Administrative Specialist for the Prevention side of the agency. Previously, she was a dispatcher for a local non-emergency medical transportation company. She worked there for two years, but had worked in that capacity for over eight years.

She has lived in or near Topeka her entire life. She has been married to her wonderful husband, Russ, for six months.



Jennifer Flott

Jennifer is our new Propane Inspector. Prior to coming to the Kansas State Fire Marshal's office she was a Deputy Sheriff for Shawnee County for 6 years. She is a mother of two wonderful girls, ages 9 and 2, and the wife of a new Topeka Fireman. She is excited and happy to be at her new job.



Elena Nuss, Chief, Youth Program Division



Kansas State Fire Marshal's Youth Programs Division

As many of you already know, Rosie Williams, Director of Y-FIRE with the KSFMO Youth Programs Division, left the agency for a new opportunity. In talking to Rosie recently, she indicated she missed the work and the many friends she'd made in the fire service over the six years she was with this agency, but her new position was for the best.

At this time the agency has not made a decision about filling Rosie's position, so I am it. If you need fire safety or juvenile firesetter intervention education, resources, training, or support, please feel free to contact me at nusse@ksfm.state.ks.us or 785-296-3403.

Mark Your Calendar for the 2007 Public Education Conference

The Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Public Education Section in conjunction with the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Youth Programs Division, Hutchinson Community College Fire Science Program and many dedicated FEAK members with the support of their departments or companies are working to bring you the 8th annual Public Fire, Burn and Life Safety Conference June 20 – 22, 2007 in Hutchinson, Kansas at the Grand Prairie Hotel, Convention Center and Water Park.

Last year's conference brought over 100 participants from 15 states and the District of Columbia together for 2 ½ days of outstanding motivational and educational workshops. In planning the 8th conference we are looking to space and the future of fire, burn and life safety education by bringing you workshops on presentation strategies and technology, reaching challenged audiences by gearing our programs to a multitude of ability levels, juvenile firesetter intervention and more.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! Hutchinson, Kansas June 20-22, 2007.



Juvenile Firesetting Affects Us All

National statistics indicate that:

- Juvenile firesetting is the fastest growing teen and pre-teen crime in the United States;
- before this day ends, 700 more arson fires will be set in the US by youth under the age of 18;
- these fires will claim more than 300 lives and injure 3,000 more each year;
- there are more than 500,000 arson fires each year, and 50% of those arrested for arson will be under the age of 18;
- arson is the most expensive crime in America, costing more than \$2 billion dollars each year in property losses alone;

Kansas Statistics (2001-2005) indicate that:

- there were 1,254 child set fires reported by our fire departments;
- these incidents resulted in 12 civilian deaths, 50 civilian injuries and 20 firefighter injuries, and
- over 7 million dollars in property losses.

We know that:

- left untreated 81% of these juvenile firesetters will continue to repeat this dangerous behavior,
- EDUCATION and INTERVENTION programs have been proven effective in preventing juvenile firesetting.

For information on what your fire department and community partners can do about Juvenile Firesetting contact:

Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office Youth Programs Division
Elena Nuss, Chief
785-296-3403
nusse@ksfm.state.ks.us



SPECIAL OPERATIONS: *Karl W. McNorton, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal*

2007 Annual Winter Fire School

The date for the Annual Winter Fire School is February 9-11, 2007 at the Kansas Highway Patrol Training Academy, Salina, Kansas. This is co-sponsored by Kansas State Firefighters Association, Kansas Fire Chiefs Association, and the Salina Fire Department. Registration deadline is January 12, 2007, and you will need Advance fire service education.

The 2007 Annual Kansas Winter Fire School will present 11 unique classes over three days covering topics vital to fire departments in the 21st Century. Uncover the hidden dangers posed to responders by hybrid vehicles, airplanes, railroad tank cars and more. Learn from nationally recognized speakers as they explore the dynamics of leadership, including how to reach your full potential as a leader. Hear the 10 most common fireground mistakes that cost over 100 firefighters their lives every year, and how they can be avoided from an operational and safety perspective. Connect with your fellow firefighters from throughout the state, and interact with Kansas fire chiefs in our Fire Chiefs Workshop. The annual Kansas Winter Fire School is your opportunity to build upon your experience with insightful discussion, expert instruction, hands-on demonstrations and life-saving information you can use immediately on the job.

2007 SCAFFA FIRE SCHOOL

The 2007 SCAFFA Fire School is scheduled for March 14 – 18, 2007 at the Ramada Inn of Topeka. More information will be available soon on www.kuce.org/fire/ and www.ksffa.com. Brochures will be mailed soon.



By John Weckerling

A reminder to all fire departments

The 2006 KFIRS reporting cutoff is January 20, 2007. Any reports received after this date will not be processed for 2006. We still have over 150 fire departments that have not submitted any incidents for 2006, and there are over 100 fire departments that are not current in their reporting for 2006. You have less than a month to get the incidents entered and get them submitted to us.

FireHouse will be coming out with version 7 soon. Departments that are using this software need to be on version 6 to upgrade to 7. I still need to make sure all departments have upgraded to 6. If you are still on version 5, you need to check in FireHouse, under Help and then "about FireHouse" and check the exact version of 5 you have. If it is not 5.4.99 or 5.5.6 or 5.5.10 then you will not be able to upgrade to version 6 without problems. We will be getting version 7 from FireHouse and we will do the mail out of the software. We are ensuring that all fire departments are ready for version 7 when it is released. If you are not on 6 and do not have one of the above versions installed then you need to contact John Weckerling at 785-296-4198 so he can assist you in getting upgraded to 6. He has the older versions needed to do the upgrade.

We still have numerous validation errors that have not been corrected and resubmitted. USFA does not use incidents that have critical errors in them so if you have validation errors that Brenda Reber has returned, you need to make corrections to those incidents and resubmit those incidents so they are corrected in the system.

We continue to see a significant use of incident code 100. Please call us before you use it. This is a fire code basically saying this fire could not be called a structure, vehicle, grass, trash, crop, or outside fire. We sent reports to quite a few fire departments in April regarding this. Most have not corrected these codes even though we provided suggested codes to replace 100 for those departments that provided a narrative with their incident.

Another area of coding is the fire cause field in the fire module using "5 – Cause under investigation". We have about 400 incidents that still reflect this code and many are dated the first half of the year. All fire departments need to review their incidents that have this code as the fire cause and determine whether the investigation is complete. If so, then this code needs to be changed to whatever was determined after the investigation.

There are two forms enclosed, Fire Department Information and a Vehicle Inspection. The department information form needs to be completed and returned so we have current information about the fire department. The vehicle inspection form needs to be completed for the vehicle inspections completed for this year (2006).

Those users of Fire Programs need to make sure the latitude and longitude fields are blank for your incidents. The numbers we receive on the latitude and longitude are incorrect and cause validation errors.

Please contact John Weckerling at 785-296-4198 for any questions you may have regarding FireHouse.

ATTENTION FIRE HOUSE SOFTWARE USERS

We have found a flaw in the export function of Firehouse software for at least versions 5.4.X thru 6.3.10. When you make changes to an incident, the export function treats it as a delete and then adds the incident as a new incident. This is fine as long as your changes are only to a single incident. If you make changes to an incident that has multiple exposures, then this action causes major problems at our level.

When the main incident is deleted the associated exposures are also deleted at the state level because they are all associated with the main incident. When the main incident is added you no longer have the exposures in our system. To get around this problem all fire departments using firehouse software who are making changes to an incident that has exposures need to make sure on the screen that you select your date range to check the box under the options that states "export all incidents in this range as new incidents even though they may have already been exported". The range will need to include the exposures that are associated with the main incident. This may create a large transaction file, but it doesn't cause a problem here as all the other incidents will just override the incidents currently in the system, but at least you won't lose exposures that are currently in the system. If you have any questions, please call John Weckerling at 785-296-4198 or Brenda Reber at 785-296-0660.



The Tom A. McGuaghey Award

The award is in recognition of Wichita Fire Chief Tom A. McGuaghey. Chief McGuaghey was killed along with four other Wichita fire fighters when the Yingling Chevrolet building collapsed November 21, 1968. This award is presented to a fire fighter or fire fighters and their department for performing an act that was above and beyond the call of duty.

This year two individuals with the Topeka Fire Department were presented with awards at the Kansas Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Topeka. Captain Christopher Cervantez and Apparatus Operator James Martin performed a rescue of an individual who was caught in swift and rising water. The two went down the embankment utilizing a rescue rope, entered the water and pulled the man to safety. They were assisted by several other firefighters manning the rope at the top of the embank-

ment. Those individuals received certificates of recognition for their efforts. They are: Lt. Christopher Herra, Capt. Jack Collie, AO Alan McKenzie, FF Shadon Satter, Capt. Martin Gray, AO Dane Meneley, FF Brandon Crowell, Capt. Eric Cauer, AO Michael Ordonez, and FF Toby Stickels.



Tis' the Season

The winter months are upon us and as a reminder we need to prepare ourselves for the cold weather. As we are called upon to respond during this winter season it is important that we remember that we still need to hydrate ourselves before, during and after an incident. It's best that we use water or sports drinks instead of coffee or soda's. As the weather may be colder doesn't mean you won't work up the heart rate and perspire causing you to dehydrate. The colder weather in our state also tends to be dryer air and that too will draw moisture from our bodies.

Since it is colder it is also important to remember to dress in layers to maintain body heat to keep warm and as the weather changes rapidly. We can shed layers as we warm up. This time of year you will generally find in Karl's truck extra clothing such as socks, tee shirt, sweat shirt, gloves and a blanket. You just never know when things will get wet, or you need to provide a blanket to individuals who may be involved in an accident or victims of a fire.

Please take care to prepare yourselves, drive with due care, and have safe and happy holidays.





Rachel Thompson

Rachel works in the Explosives Unit in the Investigation Division. She was born in Oklahoma but raised here in Topeka. She attended the University of Kansas for a short time and will be attending Washburn University in the spring. She is coming to the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office after working for 4 ½ years in the Records Division of the Topeka Police Department.

She just recently bought her first house with her fiancé Jon. Most of her spare time is taken up playing with her 3 year old stepson Christian. She is an avid bookworm and enjoys writing.

Tragic Fires

On September 17, 2006 another tragic fire occurred in Lawrence, Kansas. A residential house fire claimed the lives of five family members. Several agencies worked together to determine the origin and cause of the fire. The structure had integrity problems due to the fire damage. This delayed investigators from recovering three of the victims and conducting their interior scene examination until the safety issues could be addressed. The fire was later determined to be 'undetermined' but there were no indications of any suspicious nature with the cause at the time. The Lawrence Douglas County Fire and Medical, Lawrence Police Department, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives all worked on this tragic event.

We do not want to see these types of events in our state or anywhere else. We know how manpower intensive these operations can be as well as the emotional aspects these cases place not only on family and friends of the victims but also the fire fighters and investigators that are tasked with the scene. The tragic fire in Missouri on November 27, 2006 where 10 people died and 24 others injured in the assisted living facility is another reminder how tragic fires can be. We as fire fighters and investigators never know what will be placed in front of us in our jobs but we do need to remember that we are not alone and we have a large family of public service professionals that will assist during and after the event is over.

Training

The Kansas Chapter of IAAI's annual conference / training is set for Febuary 13-15, 2007. It is being co sponsored by the International Association of Arson Investigators as a regional training. This seminar will be based on the textbook Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction. Dr. DeHaan's and Dr. Icove's presentations will be taken from topics and issues mentioned in the textbook. All seminar attendees will receive a copy of the Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction textbook with their paid registration.



HAZMAT DIVISION: *Dan Thompson, Chief , HazMat Division*

Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office
Hazardous Materials Division
Contact Information
HazMat Toll Free #: 1-866-542-9628

Pager No's:

Dan Thompson	785-357-3295
A.J. Clemmons	785-357-3192
Karl McNorton	785-270-2305
Group Pager	785-357-3261
Alpha Numeric Page	www.myairmail.com

Personal Cell Phone Numbers:

Dan Thompson	785-224-9315
A.J. Clemmons	785-633-8908
Karl McNorton	785-640-2376

Radio Frequencies:

Repeaters not available yet — Use Direct (talk-around)
Receive & talk-around — — 866.700
Transmit — — — — — 821.700
DPL Code — — — — — 023

Call Signs:

Dan Thompson	State Haz-Mat 1
A.J. Clemmons	State Haz-Mat 2

Home Phone Numbers:

Dan Thompson	785-271-8988
A.J. Clemmons	785-235-9761
Karl McNorton	785-286-3151

clip and save

For more training information see <http://ks.train.org> or www.accesskansas.org/firemarshal.



Purchase of Equipment for the Haz-Mat Program

The State Fire Marshal's Haz-Mat Program has been fortunate to receive additional '04 grant monies in the amount of \$122,000 to be used for the purchase of equipment.

The equipment that has been ordered is three ea AHURA First Defender Ramen Spectrometers, and two ea gamma spectrometers. These units will be issued to selected State Regional Haz-Mat Teams for use in state responses. These units will give regional teams the capability to more closely identify a solid or liquid product and to identify radioactive isotopes.

The haz-mat program has acquired a Lumex Mercury vapor analyzer that can be requested should a mercury incident pose a problem. This unit may be used in a private residence or any other area where mercury is a problem. The response may provide very limited remediation for a very small amount of mercury that may have been released. That determination is made on a case-by-case basis. Monitoring for mercury levels can be provided in all cases as necessary.

The following information was provided by the US EPA concerning mercury in schools. It is provided to assist local responders in providing information to their local schools and local officials.

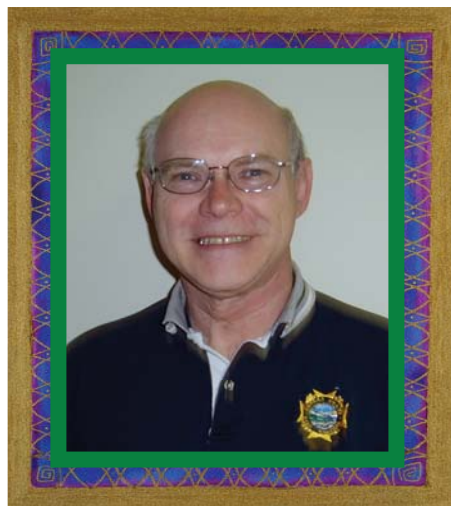


Lumex Mercury Vapor Analyzer



AHURA First Defender Ramen Spectrometers

CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE



George Carter

George Carter, our accountant, has announced his retirement effective December 15, 2006. He began his career with the State of Kansas in October 1976 following his discharge after serving 5 1/2 years in the United States Air Force.

He started work with the Kansas Reception and Diagnostic Center in their accounting department. He has worked for several different agencies over the years including Kansas Correctional Vocational Training Center, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka Correctional Facility, Kansas Department of Corrections and finally the Kansas State Fire Marshal's office. George has spent over 30 years in accounting and financial management.

He will remain in the Topeka area following his retirement. George said he will spend his time cooking, cleaning house, doing laundry, relaxing, and fishing, although not necessarily in that particular order. We wish George the best for his retirement future from all of us at the Kansas Fire Marshal's office. We will miss you George!

Becky Bahr is George Carter's replacement as our accountant. She previously worked for the Department of Administration in the Division of Accounts and Reports. She started working for the State of Kansas in 1995 with the Board of Education.

Becky is married and has two children, a son and a daughter. She is a Girl Scout Leader with her daughter's troop. She enjoys camping with her family.



Becky Bahr



SEASONS

GREETINGS



Holiday Greetings and have a Fire Safe
Holiday Season, from all of us at
the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office.

KANSAS

STATE

FIRE

MARSHAL

